

**BOARD OF HEARING AND SPEECH
MEETING MINUTES FOR
February 1, 2002**

LOCATION: Department of Health Conference Center
1101 Eastside Street SW
Olympia, Washington

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kimberly Coy, Chair
Lynn Byrne
Penny Allen
Mark Scoones
Sheila Winkler
Jim Pannette
Rudy Gahler, M.D.
Jacqueline Ianniello

STAFF PRESENT: Traci Troutman, Program Manager
Ericka Brown, Administrative Assistant
Diane Young, Operations Director
Robert Nicoloff, Executive Director

AAG PRESENT: Marc Defreyn, AAG Advisor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Kimberly Coy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting agenda was approved as amended. The minutes were approved as amended.

2. DISCIPLINARY/LICENSING REPORT

Traci Troutman reported the following current disciplinary statistics:

Cases Open: 1
Cases in investigation:
Cases in case disposition:
Cases in adjudication process:

Ms. Troutman reported the following licensing statistics:

Hearing Aid Fitter/Dispensers: 265
Audiologist's: 272
Speech Language Pathologists: 417

Traci discussed the disciplinary trend report showing how many disciplinary actions were taken by the Board in the last five years. The Board expressed interest in seeing a breakdown of complaint type. Program staff will provide the board with disciplinary reports that include a breakdown of the types of complaints received.

Traci Troutman introduced new employee Michelle Velez to the Board of Hearing and Speech.

3. PROGRAM REPORT – Traci Troutman, Program Manager

Budget

Traci Troutman discussed with the Board the status of the program budget. For the first time in several years, the budget is currently showing a positive balance.

Update on Associations licensing proposal

Traci Troutman discussed the most recent legislation proposed by the association. This version proposes changing voluntary certification for speech-language pathologists and audiologists to mandatory licensure. This version would exempt from licensure speech-language pathologists and audiologists currently working in the schools and certified by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Sheila Winkler requested a copy of the testimony regarding the Bill from January 31, 2002.

Lynn Byrne asked if a fee increase would be necessary if House Bill 2589 goes through. Ms. Troutman explained that once the licensing bill is in place and program is able to determine what the revenue flow will be, a fee study will then be conducted. At that time it will be decided if a fee increase is necessary.

Request to FDA for Freedom of Information disclosure regarding disposable hearing instruments and the requirement for serial numbers

Ms. Troutman discussed the history of disposable hearing aid instruments. The Board of Hearing and Speech received a response to Marc Defreyn's request to the FDA for a Freedom of Information disclosure and explanation of their CFR's regarding disposable hearing instruments and the requirement for serial numbers.

Marc Defreyn went over the highlights of the FDA letter of response. Mr. Defreyn will be sending a letter to the FDA requesting further clarification. Ms. Troutman will mail a copy of the letter to the Board.

Mr. Defreyn reported that Songbird indicated the FDA has given them approval to use lot numbers instead of serial numbers. Ms. Troutman has requested a copy of this letter Songbird has from the FDA regarding the approval to use lot numbers instead of serial numbers.

The states of Florida and North Carolina have issued statements contradicting the law. Mr. Defreyn will follow up with these states to try and get further clarification.

Traci Troutman asked the Board if they would like to withdraw the technical assistance memo or let it stand. After discussion, the Board determined that the memo will stand unless or until we receive further information that would change the Boards view.

Update on Board Member vacancies

Program staff is planning a mass-mailing to all credential holders soliciting interest and a request will be made to the Associations asking for their assistance in finding interested candidates.

Bob Nicoloff called the Association for names and candidates for the Board appointments needing to be filled.

Legislative Session

Bob Nicoloff passed out a monthly bulletin distributed by the Department of Health regarding legislation.

Micellaneous

Traci Troutman gave an update on workload duties of Michelle Velez and Ericka Brown.

Ms. Troutman reported that she would be going to the Federation of Regulatory Boards Conference next week.

3. RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Report on WACS

Traci Troutman discussed the February 2002 rule status report.

Traci Troutman discussed the January 22, 2002, letter sent to community colleges regarding the two-year degree program for Hearing Instrument Studies and the feedback we received. At this time there hasn't been a college interested in pursuing the degree program.

At 10:55 a.m. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss existing and future contractual issues with legal counsel. Executive Session ended at 11:05 a.m.

4. EXAMINATION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Report on December 2001 exam results

Ms. Troutman shared with the board the exam results for the past four exams given. Pass and failure rates were broken down by application process. The Board expressed interest in continuing to receive these examination results.

Traci Troutman reported on progress of Spokane Community Falls two-year degree program. In June of 2003 there will be sixteen to eighteen graduates. In the Fall of 2002 the program has the maximum number of students registered for the program. Bates Program has not sent in a response to the number of students in their program.

5. POLICY REVIEW

Traci Troutman discussed the Below Threshold Determination policy and the board made suggestions for updating. Ms. Troutman will update the policy and provide it for the next meeting.

6. CASE DISPOSITION PANEL REVIEW

Traci Troutman reported there are no disciplinary cases to discuss.

7. REVIEW OF OPERATING AGREEMENT, BUSINESS PLAN AND BOARD TASKS

Traci Troutman discussed the Board of Hearing and Speech Operating Agreement, Business Plan and Board Tasks. The Board made some changes to the business plan. The changes to the Business Plan will be made and updated copies of the business plan will be provided at the May meeting.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kimberly Coy, Chair, opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public in attendance at the meeting.

WORKING LUNCH

9. OTHER ISSUES

Traci Troutman discussed having a booth at the SHHH Convention and the Ears, Hearing and Beyond Conference.

Lynn Byrne discussed inappropriate advertising for mail order hearing aids.

10. REVIEW OF MEETING NOTES

Ericka Brown, note taker reviewed Board decisions made at this meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:09.

Recorder: _____

Ericka Brown, Administrative Assistant

Submitted by: _____
Traci Troutman, Program Manager

Approved by: _____
Kimberly Coy, Chair

These minutes are to be reviewed and corrected at the next board meeting and will not be redistributed unless substantial errors or omissions are identified.